

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 IO-10 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6911

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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SUBJ: SENIOR PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT HOPEFUL ON INTER-AMERICAN
DIALOGUE

1. SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY TOLD A GROUP OF LEADING LIMA BUSINESSMEN ON SEPTEMBER
11 THAT THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA ARE ENGAGED IN A
MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND
APPRECIATION FOR CHANGING CONCEPTS OF AID, COOPERATION, AND
NON-INTERVENTION IN THE HEMISPHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA, THE RANKING PROFESSIONAL IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY IN LIMA, SPOKE TO A PERUVIAN BUSINESSMEN'S
LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 11 ON THE THEME, "THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM."
THE OFFICIAL REPORT, PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 12 ON PAGE TWO OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S DAILY, EL PERUANO, EMPHASIZED A NUMBER OF GENERAL
THEMES ADDRESSED BY GARCIA BEDOYA, MOST OF WHICH HAD SOME
PERTINENCE TO RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE EL PERUANO ARTICLE LED
OFF WITH A GARCIA BEDOYA QUOTE: "LATIN AMERICA IS ON THE ROAD
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TOWARD MAKING THE UNITED STATES COMPREHEND THE NEED FOR

ESTABLISHING NEW FORMS OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL CHART A DEFINITE COURSE BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT MOTHERLANDS OF THE CONTINENT." THE BURDEN OF THE SPEECH ENUNCIATED GARCIA BEDOY'S, AND INFERENTIALLY LATIN APPRECIATION, OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD OF NEW CONCEPTS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE PRESS REPORTED GARCIA BEDOYA SAYING IN THE PAST THE U.S. HAD ATTACHED PATERNALISTIC AND SELF-INTERESTED STRINGS TO ITS AID PROGRAMS, BUT IS NOW LISTENING WITH A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TO WHAT THE LATIN'S ARE SAYING, AND "WE ARE HOPING TO SUCCEED THROUGH PERSUASION IN CONVINCING (THE USA)."

3. COMMENT: AN EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENT AT THE LUNCHEON FLET THE SPEECH WAS MORE POSITIVE IN TONETHAN THE SUMMARY AND QUOTATIONS CONTAINED IN PRESS. GARCIA BEDOYA ENDORSED THE OAS AS THE PROPER FORUM IN WHICH TO DEBATE AND CARRY OUT A USEFUL DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. HE SAID THE RECENT OAS VOTE IN WHICH THE U.S. JOINED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE IN LIFTING THE CUBAN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE WAS "ONE OF THE REALITIES" THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD SUCCESSFULLY HANDLED. (NOTE: EL PERUANO DID NOT REPORT THESE POSITIVE REFERENCES TO OAS.) GARCIA BEDOYA ALSO TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO RESPOND TO LATIN AMERICAN NEEDS BUT THAT EFFORTS ARE AT TIMES BALKED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. INTERPRETING THE RECENT VOTE ON CUBA AS EVIDENCE OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM IN THE OAS, HE OBSERVED THAT CUB, ALTHOUGH CLEARLY NOT A DEMOCRACY, HAS A BETTER GOVERNMENT THAN SOME OF THE OTHER (UNNAMED) NEARER AT HAND.

4. GARCIA BEDOYA'S FAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT THE OAS ARE HARDLY SURPRISING, INASMUCH AS HE HAS DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF HIS EFFORTS IN RECENT YEARS TO WORKING TO IMPROVE THE OAS (BY HIS AND PERUVIAN LIGHTS). GARCIA BEDOYA'S FAVORABLE REMARKS ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE NOT SO READILY DECIPHERABLE, BUT ONE EXPLANATION MAY BE THE CURRENT RUMOR THAT HE MAY BE NAMED AS PERU'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND HE MAY WANT TO MAKE A FEW POINTS WITH THE USG WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STOUTLY DEFENDING PERU'S CAUSES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON THE WHOLE GARCIA BEDOYA, EVEN AS HE HAS FAITHFULLY CARRIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT AND ARTICULATED PERU'S NATIONALISTIC, THIRD WORLD LINE, HAS PROVED TO BE A POSITIVE ELEMENT IN U.S. PERUVIAN RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS.
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